

2021



Juvenile
Justice
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ANNUAL REPORT

FEBRUARY
2022

INDIANA JUVENILE JUSTICE STATE ADVISORY GROUP

This is the Indiana Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group's 2021 Annual Report, which highlights the efforts and progress made by JJSAG over the past year.



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ABOUT ICJI The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) is the state planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety and victim services. ICJI is designated as the state administering agency for distribution of federal funds and as the state Statistical Analysis Center for research. ICJI is responsible for coordinating and collaborating with local, state and federal entities to identify, assess, plan, resource and evaluate new and emerging issues facing the criminal justice and public safety spectrum.

ABOUT JJSAG The Indiana Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group is the advisory body that recommends priorities for OJJDP funding and provides policies recommendations to ICJI.

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There is a beauty that can be found in growth and progress—particularly when it is delivered through a collective movement towards a noble ideal by an enlightened society. In this instance, the noble ideal is that all youth matter and deserve to be afforded every opportunity possible to transform and grow. The opportunity and mechanism for pursuing this ideal is created through the Juvenile Justice Reauthorization Act (JJRA) of 2018. At the state and territorial level, the JJRA is monitored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), which sits within the United States Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA).

In Indiana, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) serves as the state designated agency for the administration of the federal entitlement that is opted-into through an annual Title II solicitation. The efforts of ICJI are multi-faceted and cover compliance monitoring, racial and ethnic disparities evaluation, and juvenile justice system analysis and strategic planning. This work is overseen by the Director of the Behavioral Health and Youth Division.

In addition, the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (JJSAG), which is composed of a diverse and experienced group of citizen-stakeholders, provides their advice to ICJI. Indiana’s JJSAG is responsible for advising ICJI on efforts related to the JJRA; one form of this advising is the submission of a report to the legislature and Office of Indiana’s Governor at least every two years. This independent report is mandated by the JJRA. For this reason, ICJI fosters the setting and timeline for the drafting of the report but does not contribute to the report—outside of this introductory letter. As a result, the report that follows is the independent advisory recommendations of Indiana’s JJSAG to leadership in the State of Indiana—as it relates to the implementation of efforts related to the JJRA.

The work of Indiana’s JJSAG is central to the foundational truth that humans—especially youth—can transform through effort and support. This truth serves as the cornerstone of all the work that is undertaken by the JJSAG. This work is made tangible by building, maintaining, and enhancing our juvenile justice system around the unwavering principle that youth deserve a system that is restorative, fair, and humane. This truth should not be an exceptional or even exotic idea; instead, it should be the foundation of all thoughts related to the juvenile justice system in Indiana.

It is our hope that the JJSAG functions as an independent advisory group, whose focus is on developing actionable recommendations on how to drive progress through Title II related efforts—all the while helping Indiana continue to move onwards and upwards towards a more just and restorative system.

It is my hope that the work undertaken by the JJSAG, and captured in this report, helps to not only maintain truth, fairness, and the law—but also drives us to ask hard questions. Through asking hard questions, we will hopefully identify areas to be improved. This improvement must always work towards fair, honest, and neutral treatment of all humans. Through this report, the JJSAG can make recommendations that lead to improvements in how youth are treated.

I hope that the report you hold in your hands serves as the start of a conversation, which leads to long-term action.

Warm Regards,

Michael Ross, MSW, LCSW
Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Behavioral Health Division Director



On behalf of the Indiana Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group, I am pleased to present the 2020-2021 JJSAG report. The JJSAG is responsible for establishing the priorities and planning for Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funding that the State of Indiana receives through the Department of Justice (DOJ). These priorities are reviewed and updated in the Three-Year Plan that is submitted to OJJDP as part of the compliance requirements. Based on these priorities an annual solicitation for program funding is published and ICJI makes recommendations to their Board of Trustees for approval. In 2020 and 2021, \$2,175,053.40 was awarded to agencies and programs across Indiana to support comprehensive juvenile delinquency prevention efforts.

The past two years have been a period of reorganization and revitalization for the JJSAG. In the beginning of 2020, the leadership staff from the Behavioral Health Division of ICJI and I charted a new course for the JJSAG consisting of re-evaluating the group's make up, reviewing the working structure of the group, and planning for the next Three-Year Plan submission.

As a result of ICJI's Executive Director now having Governor's Alternate Representative authority, the process of identifying and confirming JJSAG members has become much more efficient and expeditious. In 2020 we were able to quickly confirm a diverse roster of 25 individuals to serve on the JJSAG. In addition, with support from OJJDP and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ), we were able to hold orientation sessions for both new and existing JJSAG members. We are proud to say we have a full, informed roster. The reorganization of the JJSAG has established four working groups: Racial and Ethnic Disparities, Compliance Monitoring, Youth Recruitment, and Data. Enclosed you will find summaries of the scope of work each of these groups will work on as the next Three-Year Plan is developed.

The JJSAG is a group of committed professionals from across the state that are passionate about improving the services provided to young people in the juvenile justice system. The overwhelming response to the last two requests for proposals is a clear indication that the ICJI has fully embraced the role of creating awareness among providers about the resources that exist in Indiana to serve youth. We are excited about the future of the JJSAG and the impact this initiative will have on the young people in our state.

Sincerely,

David Westenberger
Chair of the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group



ANNUAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (JJSAG) is made up of Governor appointees responsible for ensuring compliance with federal law, setting priorities for the State of Indiana and providing oversight for juvenile justice funding. At least every two years, the JJSAG is responsible for creating a report directly to the Chief Officer of the State and Legislature detailing statewide juvenile justice priorities and updates.

This Governor's Report includes updates from the JJSAG Chair, an Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Division Letter, an overall introduction to the work of the JJSAG emphasizing the federal act and responsibilities bestowed upon the JJSAG, and a list of JJSAG volunteer members. Four workgroups serve the overall work of the JJSAG and are the: Racial and Ethnic Disparities Workgroup, the Compliance Monitoring Workgroup, the Data Workgroup, and the Youth Recruitment Workgroup.

WHO WE ARE

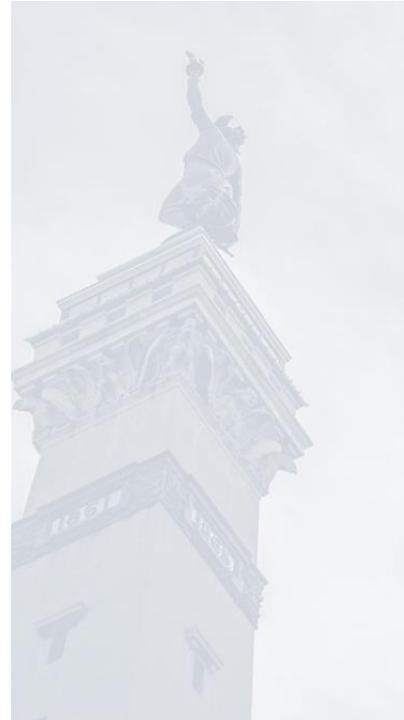
INTRODUCTION

The requirement for a Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (JJSAG) for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention was established in the original Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDPA). The JJDPA is a federal law that provides delinquency prevention grants to states and localities to improve systems and practices, and to establish basic safeguards for states and localities to follow regarding their care and custody of youth who meet the juvenile justice system.

In addition, the JJDPA establishes a structure for citizen input and oversight of state implementation of the law's mandates and programs, through the work of a Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (SAG). The JJDPA was most recently reauthorized in 2018 and provides the foundation for each state's work plan and responsibilities in juvenile justice. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is the federal agency within the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice, which holds responsibility for examining, preventing, and reducing juvenile delinquency, and ensuring effective implementation of the JJDPA.

The JJDPA and OJJDP guidelines require each state to maintain a State Advisory Board, acting in an advisory capacity for the Designated State Agency, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), for the utilization of federal funds. Created by the General Assembly in 1981 as an executive branch agency, ICJI represents the culmination of many efforts to establish a statewide body that builds consensus and unity among Indiana's diverse and interdependent justice system components. The ICJI serves in a supervisory capacity to the Indiana JJSAG.

The JJSAG meets on a quarterly basis and is made up of members who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.



The JJSAG's mission is to review juvenile justice policy, advise and advocate on juvenile justice issues, and strive to keep Indiana in compliance with JJDPA.

OUR ROLE

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Indiana Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (JJSAG), required by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), is appointed by the Governor, or Governor’s representative, and serves in an advisory capacity to the designated state agency, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), for Title II Formula Grant funds from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). ICJI serves in a supervisory role but relies on the JJSAG to provide guidance and expertise to effectively implement initiatives at the state and local level. Additionally, the JJSAG is tasked with advising ICJI on the preparation and implementation of the state’s Juvenile

Justice Three-Year Plan, which is a requirement of continued Title II Formula Grant funding. There are 25 statutory requirements of the JJDP that each state must comply with. Within these requirements, federal funds are dependent on a state’s compliance with the four core requirements outlined in the JJDP. If a state is out of compliance with one or more of the core requirements, OJJDP will reduce the Title II Formula Grant award by 20 percent for each requirement with which the state is out of compliance. Additionally, the state must use 50 percent of the awarded amount to achieve compliance. The four core requirements are:



DE-INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF STATUS OFFENDERS

Each state must ensure that juveniles who are charged with a status offense, will not be placed in secure detention or in correctional facilities. Status offenses are those offenses which would not be an offense if committed by a person over the age of eighteen (e.g., truancy, curfew, running away, alcohol possession/consumption).



SIGHT AND SOUND SEPARATION OF JUVENILES FROM ADULT OFFENDERS

Each state must ensure that a juvenile charged with a delinquent offense, and who is detained or confined in an adult jail or lockup, will not have verbal or visual contact with adult offenders.



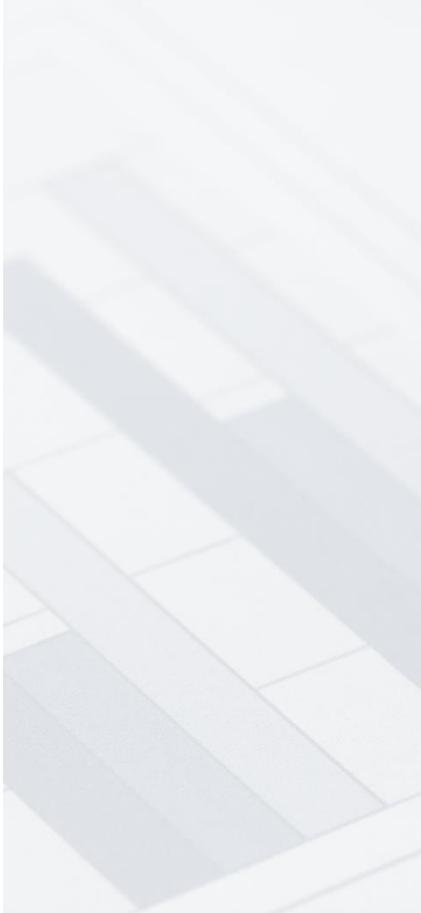
REMOVAL OF JUVENILES FROM ADULT JAILS AND LOCKUPS

Each state must ensure that no juvenile shall be detained or confined in a jail or lockup that is intended for adult offenders.



RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES

Each state must try to reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) at five decision points along the juvenile justice continuum when each minority proportion exceeds that minority’s representation in the overall population of youth.

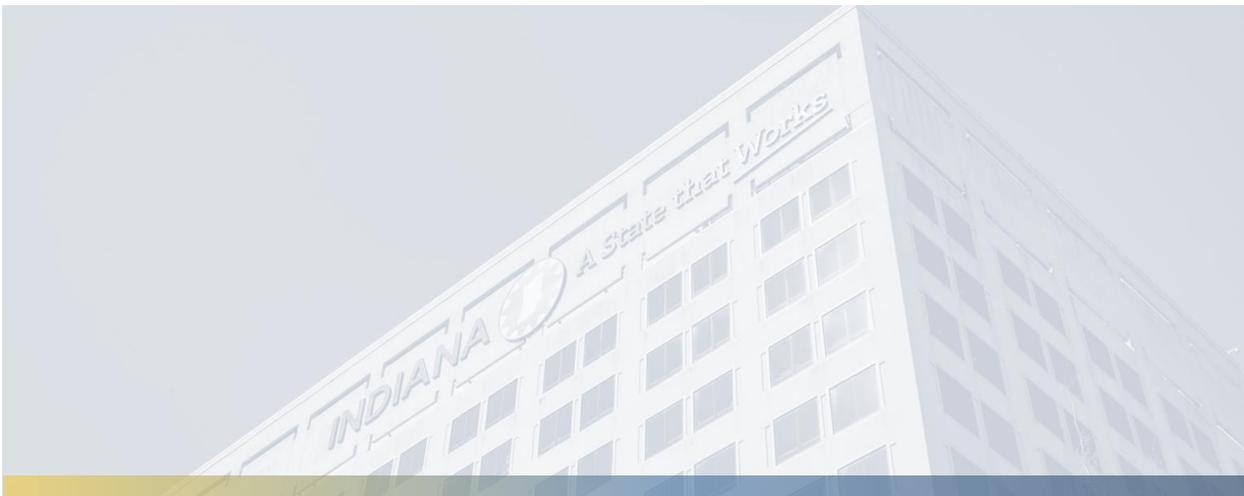


The Governor appoints at least 15 and no more than 33 members to the SAG. Through the submission of the Title II Formula Grant application, the ICJI reports compliance and RED data annually to OJJDP. Further, the JJSAG is required to submit a report every two years to the Governor. Additionally, the JJSAG has the responsibility to advise and make recommendations on issues, trends, practices, and concerns in juvenile justice.

The JJSAG meets on a quarterly basis throughout the year in which members can attend in person, by virtual platform, or by conference call. Members represent the various juvenile justice stakeholders who have acquired special knowledge related to juveniles. They also represent Indiana’s rural, suburban, and urban areas, and major ethnic and racial groups residing in Indiana.

The JJSAG members are invited to attend various juvenile justice related conferences and/or trainings throughout the year depending on the availability of funds.

ICJI is the state administrative agency where the JJSAG is housed. Michael Ross serves as the Behavioral Health Division Director; Shelby Price serves as the Juvenile Justice Specialist and as the RED Coordinator; Adam Winkler serves as the Grant Manager for the Behavioral Health Division; Renee White serves as the Juvenile Detention Compliance Monitor.



PROGRESS REPORT

WORKGROUP UPDATES

Below are updates from each of the respective JJSAG Workgroup Chairs.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES (RED) WORKGROUP

The Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Workgroup mission is to review the Racial and Ethnic Disparities implementation plan and provide recommendations on RED issues. The RED Workgroup has met once every 3 months for a minimum of an hour and a half where we discuss recommendations for RED package. The RED package is comprised of a letter, Relative Rate Index data (RRI which is the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention's recommended tool to measure disparities at each of the decision points separated by the juvenile's race and ethnicity), State data, Technical Assistance document (provides the next steps and a list of resources and funding available) and a Frequently Asked Questions. RED will continue to strive towards a cohesive and safe space for individuals to discuss their experiences with different racial groups with a goal of providing recommendations on how to impact juvenile outcomes.

COMPLIANCE MONITORING WORKGROUP

The Mission of the Workgroup is to assist the Compliance Monitor and Juvenile Justice Specialist with analyzing and administering the requirements of compliance monitoring under the JJDP. This can be accomplished by supporting evidence-based programs that reflect the core principles of juvenile justice rehabilitation, including the use of trauma-informed care, behavioral and social development models, and by meeting the needs of at-risk juveniles and their families. Programs should address individual and societal needs with an emphasis on:

- » Prevention of entry into the juvenile justice system.
- » System wide services for the treatment of individuals, families, and support networks.
- » Processes that are chronologically and behaviorally age appropriate that hold juveniles accountable for their actions.
- » Competencies to determine the resources needed to encourage effective and sustained individual responsibility and productivity.

The Vision of the Workgroup is to ensure Indiana's compliance by developing effective resources, including the development of technical assistance, for facilities and counties to use and reference.

JUVENILE JUSTICE YOUTH RECRUITMENT WORKGROUP

The Youth Recruitment Workgroup continues to work together by focusing on the “Mission” and “Vision” – “To increase youth representation on the JJSAG” and “Create a culture where youth voices are nurtured, encouraged, and sustained among the JJSAG”. Objectives that were identified are the following:

- » Develop a recruitment plan for youth members.
- » Recruit 3 youth members to join the JJSAG in the next two years.
- » Develop a mentoring plan for the youth on the JJSAG.

Members have agreed to recruit 3 youth members with a tentative timeline of 2 years. The Workgroup has begun brainstorming action areas such as, utilizing the ICJI onboarding plan to specifically target youth, potentially using social media platforms to recruit new members, and developing advertising methods to attract youth. The Workgroup continues to stay motivated in our efforts to create a solid structure for our youth to be involved and heard.

DATA WORKGROUP

The workgroup has come together and agreed upon a “Mission” and “Vision” statement – “The Data Workgroup is to advise the Research Associate of general data collection and analysis regarding the youth in Indiana and provide review and commentary on the data section of the Three-Year Plan” and “To produce a comprehensive report to drive system change.” The Workgroup will use an annual review of the Three-Year Plan to achieve the vision and mission. The Workgroup has reviewed the most up to date Three-Year Plan already and provided ICJI feedback to a few of the survey questions. One suggestion was to add ‘concerned citizen’ as a description option for the Priorities survey and to add ‘other’ as a potential job category selection. One key recommendation was to provide opportunities and a pathway for youth to provide direct feedback to the survey themselves.

FOCUS

CONCLUSION

The Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group appreciates the Governor's Office and Legislature's thoughtful and constant attention to positive youth development for all youth across our great state. As the JJSAG considers priorities for the State, as well as policy and practice recommendations to the Governor's Office, there are many resources already available to consider. We would encourage the Governor's Office and Legislators to continue to refer to and review the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute's [Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Plan](#) as well as the Council of State Governments [Preliminary Assessment](#) of Indiana's Juvenile Justice System. Both reports note the importance of having accurate and accessible data, striving toward fair and equitable practices for all youth and the importance of developmentally appropriate, restorative and evidence-based practices.



Visit our website to learn more about JJSAG
and ICJI's Behavioral Health Division.

www.cji.in.gov



The JJSAG echoes these recommendations and looks forward to providing additional policy and practice recommendations to the Governor's Office and Legislature over the coming years. Indiana's motto, "The Crossroads of America" holds true for youth now more than ever. As a system dedicated to helping young people during critical crossroads in their development, we must be fair, equitable, holistically and developmentally minded and restorative in nature. We must not rest until all children are treated the way we would expect and want our own child treated.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE STATE
ADVISORY GROUP**

David Westenberger, Chair
Represents: D, F, H
Serves on Data Workgroup

Brandon George, Co-Chair
Represents: D, I
*Serves on Compliance
Monitoring Workgroup*

**COMPLIANCE MONITORING
WORKGROUP**

Deanna Paddack, Chair*
Represents: C

Rebecca Humphrey
Represents: D, F

Hon. Andrea Trevino*
Represents: A, B, C

Hon. Peter Haughan*
Represents: B, C, E

John Lee
Represents: Youth, D

DATA WORKGROUP

Amy Brinkley, Chair*
Represents: C

Samantha Eads
Represents: H, E

Monica Greer
Represents: D

Meagan Blasing
Represents: G

Katy Elmer
Represents: G, H

**RACIAL & ETHNIC
DISPARITIES WORKGROUP**

Aarika Anderson, Chair
Represents: H, E

Angela Sutton*
Represents: B, C

Kevin Moore
Represents: G, D

Tami Silverman
Represents: D, H

Jeff Bercovitz*
Represents: C

Christopher Paez Reyna
Represents: D

**YOUTH RECRUITMENT
WORKGROUP**

Ethan Harrison, Chair
Represents: Youth, D

Nancy Waver*
Represents: F

Maggie Lewis
Represents: D, F

Jan Lutz
Represents: D, H, I

Tao Mowers
Represents: H, D

Clive Jachnik
Represents: E

Legend:

- A. At least one locally elected official representing general purpose local government
- B. Representatives of law enforcement and juvenile justice agencies, including juvenile judges, prosecutors, counsel for children and youth, and probation workers
- C. Representative of public agencies concerned with delinquency prevention or treatment, such as welfare, social services, child and adolescent mental health, education, child and adolescent substance abuse, special education, services for youth with disabilities, recreation, and youth services
- D. Representative of private nonprofit organizations, including persons with a special focus on preserving and strengthening families, parent groups and parent self-help groups, youth development, delinquency prevention and treatment, neglected or dependent children, the quality of juvenile justice, education, and social services for children;
- E. Volunteers who work with delinquent youth or at youth at risk of delinquency
- F. Representatives of programs that are alternatives to incarceration, including programs with recreation activities;
- G. Persons with special experience and competence in addressing problems related to school violence and vandalism and alternatives to suspension and expulsion;
- H. Persons licensed or certified by the applicable state, with expertise and competence in preventing and addressing mental health and substance abuse needs in delinquent youth and youth at risk of delinquency;
- I. Representative of victim or witness advocacy groups with expertise in addressing the challenges of sexual abuse and exploitation and trauma, particularly the needs of youth who experience disproportionate levels of sexual abuse, exploitation, and trauma before entering the juvenile justice system; and
- J. For a state in which one or more Indiana Tribes are located, an Indiana tribal representative (if such a representative is available) or other individual with significant expertise in tribal law enforcement and juvenile justice in Indian tribal communities.

*Denotes full-time state or county government employee



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